

REMARKS

The present Amendment amends claims 1-15 and 17-21, adds new claim 22 and cancels claim 16. Therefore, the present application has pending claims 1-15 and 17-22.

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the specification as allegedly not indicating the status of all related parent priority applications. The present application has not been indicated as being related to a U.S. parent priority application requiring its reference in the first line of the specification. Therefore, the Examiner's objection to the specification is traversed and reconsideration and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested. The Examiner is requested to identify a passage in the specification which indicates that the present application is related to a parent priority application.

The drawings stand objected to due to informalities noted by the Examiner. Filed on even date herewith are Proposed Drawing Corrections so as to correct the informalities, particularly in Fig. 5, as noted by the Examiner. Therefore, this objection is overcome and should be withdrawn.

Claim 3 stands objected to under 37 CFR §1.75(c) as being in improper form because a multiple dependent claim should refer to other claims in the alternative only. Amendments were made to claim 3 to place it in independent form so as not to be a multiple claim. Therefore, this objection is overcome and should be withdrawn.

Since the above described amendment was made to claim 3, the Examiner's objection to claims 9, 12 and 15, each depending from claim 3, is also overcome and should be withdrawn.

Claim 16 stands rejected under 35 USC §101 being that the Examiner alleges that claim 16 is directed to non-statutory subject matter. As indicated above, claim 16 was canceled. Therefore, this rejection is rendered moot. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-21 stand rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regards as the invention. As indicated above, claim 16 was canceled. Therefore, this rejection with respect to claim 16 is rendered moot. Amendments were made to the remaining claims 1-15 and 17-21 so as to bring them into conformity with the requirements of 35 USC §112, second paragraph. Therefore, Applicants submit that this rejection is overcome and should be withdrawn.

Specifically, amendments were made throughout claims 1-15 and 17-21 to bring them into conformity with the requirements of 35 USC §112, second paragraph. Therefore, Applicants submit that this rejection is overcome and should be withdrawn.

As indicated above, the present Amendment adds new claim 22. New claim 22 recites features similar to that recited in currently pending claims 1-15 and 17-21.

Since claims 1-15 and 17-21 were not rejected based upon prior art, Applicants submit that overcoming the objections to the claims and the rejection under 35 USC §112, second paragraph now places these claims in condition for allowance. Since new claim 22 recites many of the same features recited in claims 1-15 and 17-21, new claim 22 is also allowable over the prior art of record.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that claims 1-15 and 17-22 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of claims 1-15 and 17-22 is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, the applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP, Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (500.38895X00).

Respectfully submitted,

ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP



Carl I. Brundidge
Registration No. 29,621

CIB/jdc
(703) 312-6600